

## BOOK REVIEWS

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*Book Review Editor*

**Sunlight and Man: Normal and Abnormal Photobiologic Response**, Madhukar A. Pathak, Leonard C. Harber, Makoto Seiji, and Atsushi Kukita (eds.); Thomas B. Fitzpatrick, consulting editor. University of Tokyo Press, Tokyo, 1974. (870 pp. \$59.90)

New on the book market is an 870-page collection of papers presented at the 1972 International Conference on Photosensitization and Photoprotection in Tokyo. The University of Tokyo Press apparently spared no expense in publishing the proceedings along with 25 color plates and many black and white figures on elegantly heavy, glossy paper. The price also is unfortunately rather elegant at \$59.90. But this new volume does include the work of virtually every well-known figure in photobiology from around the world. And despite the inherent, unavoidable difficulties of organizing the presentations of these numerous individuals into a meaningful text, the editors have done an admirable job of arranging an orderly flow of thought through the eight sections of the book with a minimum of repetition and overlap. The foreign language presentations are well translated into fluent, idiomatic English.

The purpose of the International Conference was to bring together current information concerning photosensitivity reactions with primary reference to the skin. This publication includes in one reference volume information on photosensitivity and photoprotection which previously was widely scattered through the biophysical, photobiologic, pharmacologic, dermatologic, and clinical literature.

The scope of the book is wide. It starts with erudite discussions of cytosine photohydrates and cyclobutane thymine dimers pertinent to the micromolecular world of the photochemist, and evolves through laboratory studies on cell systems and animals to the clinical problems of photosensitization and their treatment by the practicing physician.

In the tradition of "proceedings" publications, discussions of the papers are included, but they are wisely relegated to a single section in the back of the book where they do not interfere with the orderly progression of the text. Although the comments included are short and well edited, they are of questionable usefulness. I suppose they lend a

personal touch whereby we can eavesdrop vicariously on the verbal exchanges among the great and near-great in photobiology.

Let not a little editorial humor detract from the importance of this new volume. It represents the most current synthesis of information on photosensitization and photoprotection available.

Michael Jarratt, M.D.

Houston, Texas

**Immunopathology of the Skin: Labeled Antibody Studies**, Ernest H. Beutner, Ph.D., Tadeusz P. Chorzelski, M.D., Samuel F. Bean, M.D., and Robert E. Jordon, M.D. (eds.). Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1974. (461 pp, \$22.00)

This book represents the first attempt to compile a basic reference text on the immunopathology of the skin. The field has made rapid progress since the first description, approximately 10 years ago by Dr. Beutner and Dr. Jordon, of autoantibodies to skin. It is now well recognized that the presence of circulating autoantibodies to skin or of abnormal deposits of immunoglobulin or complement in the epidermis can be extremely useful in the diagnosis and evaluation of bullous diseases and lupus erythematosus. More recently, abnormal cutaneous deposits of immunoglobulin and complement have been found in a number of other conditions including vasculitis, lichen planus, and porphyria cutanea tarda.

The volume is hard covered and has been divided into three parts. The first describes the various immunologic abnormalities which have been detected by the immunofluorescence technique in conditions involving the skin. This is the section which will be of greatest interest to the clinician. The second part is a detailed description of the laboratory procedures required to properly perform immunofluorescence, the variables which influence the results of the technique, and the experimental studies which have been done on the nature of some of the antigens in skin and their role in disease. The third part is a review of some newer immunologic assays available for the diagnosis of syphilis.

The book stresses the immunofluorescence technique and thus deals mostly with immune prob-

lems associated with abnormalities in complement or antibodies. There is relatively little discussion of immunopathologic problems resulting from cellular immunity or of those that can be studied by alternate techniques. Although the book will be of greatest value to investigators interested in immunology, it is filled with a wealth of observation and data which all persons interested in immunofluorescence will find of the utmost assistance.

Jean-Claude Bystry, M.D.  
New York, New York

### Books Received

The following books have been received and will be reviewed in a subsequent issue:

*Phototherapy in the Newborn: An Overview*, Robert Schaffer, Ph.D., Gerard B. Odell, M.D., and Artemis P. Simopoulos, M.D. (eds.). National Academy of Sciences Printing and Publishing Office, Washington, D. C., 1975.

*Simulations in Dermatology, Selected Problems in Patient Management*, David L. Ramsay, M.D.,

M.Ed., and Lawrence M. Solomon, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Camb.) (eds.). Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1974.

*Communicable and Infectious Diseases, Seventh Edition*, Franklin H. Top, Sr., M.D., and Paul F. Wehrle, M.D. (eds.). C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1972.

*Dermatology—Diagnosis and Treatment in Cutaneous Disorders*, William D. Stewart, M.D., F.R.C.P.(C.), Julius L. Danto, M.D., Stuart Maddin, M.D., F.R.C.P.(C.). C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1974.

*The Diagnosis and Treatment of Fungal Infections*, Harry M. Robinson, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.P. (ed.). Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1974.

*Scleroderma (Progressive Systemic Sclerosis)*, Alfred J. Barnett, M.D., F.R.A.C.P., M.R.C.P. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1974.

*Dermatophytes in Human Skin, Hair and Nails*, James T. Sinski, Ph.D. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1974.